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# BIBLES FOR RUSSIA

January 2012

Dear Partner,

Thank you for praying and giving to help many orphans, street children and poor children have Christmas. We had Christmas parties, told the Christmas story and gave gifts to 140 orphans during our recent mission to Kherson, Ukraine. All across Russia and Ukraine thousands more orphans were also blessed with Christmas parties, the Christmas story and gifts because of the financial support of our donors. God bless you for your obedience to Him and for blessing the children with your financial gifts.

While in Kherson, we worked alongside Natasha Lazareva, Galina Kuleshova and Natasha Selivanova who have been working with the children there for 14 years. In 2011 House of Hope had to close their doors because of insufficient finances. Natasha, Galina and Natasha had to find other employment. Galina told us every day the street children and poor children who came to House of Hope each day for a hot meal and a snack come to her office “begging” for money for food. Galina pleaded with us to help them open a center where they can feed the children. In addition to food, they would have Bible lessons, games and fellowship with Christians. I asked Galina to give me a financial plan for the center.

Money has already been given to get the legal paperwork done. However, we need some one-time financial gifts to buy tables, chairs, dishes, etc. to equip the center. Funds will also be needed for ongoing expenses such as food, rent, utilities and salaries. The three workers only ask for \$225 each per month for salary. This will allow them to continue working with the orphans and street children.

Jana and Virginia met with the manager of a large grocery store in Kherson and asked for some assistance for the children. The three workers are scheduled to meet with the manager this week. I ask that you please ask the Lord if you are to be a part of this project and what He would have you do. Only God knows what impact this center will have on the precious underprivileged children of Kherson, Ukraine.

On two occasions during our mission we had lunch for street children and those from poor families. Another day we provided lunch for invalids. During these lunches, we told them the Christmas story and they all received gifts. The children had fun with the Christian clown who played games with them.

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We were privileged to minister in a nursing home during our mission. They were very glad to see us. Most of the patients there do not have children to visit them. We took them candy, tangerines, personal items and laundry detergent. The administrator of the nursing home invited us to come again.

Kherson is the poorest city in Ukraine and there are many poor families. We were able to purchase basic food supplies for them such as flour, tea, sugar, macaroni, cooking oil, canned meat and butter as well as laundry detergent. They were so grateful. We also gave them Bibles, shared God's love and prayed with each family. During our visit with one family, the mother said she had wanted a Bible for two years but didn't have money to buy one. She was so excited to have her own Bible. To God be the glory!

Mark spent the summer of 2010 ministering in Kherson. During that time he learned of a little boy (Nickoli) who had accidentally spilled a pot of hot water over half of his body. Mark asked people to give so he could get the needed treatment. His body has healed, but he has been left with many scars. Nickoli's mother was at work when we went to visit the family but his grandmother invited us to have cake and tea as her way of showing her gratitude.

After our time of ministry in Kherson was over, we took the night train to Kiev where we were met by a friend. We had lunch and a good time of fellowship with Pastor Grigory Shvets, Dooshie (his wife) and their family. Please pray for Grigory and Dooshie. They have many health problems.

Thanks for sending me as your missionary. You were also a part of this mission if you gave or prayed. Please continue to pray for Mark as he remains in Kherson working with the orphans. He will return home February 8.

#### OUR TEAM



Jana  
Ringener

Virginia  
LoGalbo

Mark  
McCroskey

Jean  
McCroskey

In Christ,

Jean McCroskey

P.S. I will lead a team to minister to the "reindeer people" in the Vorkuta, Russia region April 23 to May 6. If interested in this mission, please call or email me.